

HB 1051 -- COMPARATIVE AUDIT OF CERTAIN STATE AGENCIES

SPONSOR: Allen

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 8 to 5.

This bill requires the State Auditor to perform, on a one-time basis, a comparative audit of at least five, but no more than 10, of the largest state agencies by August 28, 2014. The State Auditor must develop criteria for fiscal responsibility that are applicable to all agencies regardless of their statutory, legal, or programmatic mandates. The criteria must conform with the provisions of applicable law and the standards for auditing of governmental organizations, programs, activities, and functions established by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Upon completion of the audit, the State Auditor must submit a report of the findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, all statewide elected officials, the Office of Administration, and all state departments. The report must contain recommendations, including the optimal fiscal practices to be promoted across all state agencies and efficiency or cost saving measures, and recommended changes to agency policy or state law that could reduce the amount of government spending.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$100,000 to \$300,000 in FY 2013, \$0 in FY 2014, and \$0 in FY 2015. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill is about accountability and efficiency by requiring the State Auditor to perform a comparative audit on some of the largest state agencies. The goal is to determine which agencies are working most effectively and efficiently and to use this information to recommend the best practices to other agencies.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Allen; and Office of the State Auditor.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.